

Message Text

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66

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 HEW-06 DODE-00

MED-03 OES-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /072 W

----- 044537

P R 082201Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7812

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 1361

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR APHIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY OUTBREAK

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1351

1. OIRSA REPORTS MEDFLY INFESTATION IN EL SALVADOR IN EXCESS 350 SQUARE KILOMETERS BASED ON INITIAL SURVEY RESULTS. THE KNOWN INFESTATION IS CONCENTRATED IN THE VICINITY OF SAN SALVADOR EXTENDING OUTWARDS AT LEAST 15 MILES TO NORTH, EAST AND SOUTH. THIS INFESTATION WAS DETECTED ON APRIL 2 AS A RESULT OF ALMOST TOTAL FRUIT DROP IN A NAVEL ORANGE GROVE LOCATED 5 MILES EAST OF SAN SALVADOR AIRPORT. OIRSA HAS INSTALLED 2500 SYNTHETIC LURE PAPER TRAPS ALONG MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES LEADING OUT OF SAN SALVADOR. AN ADDITIONAL 5000 TRAPS HAVE BEEN AIRSHIPPED FROM SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA. OIRSA BELIEVES THEIR LURE SUPPLY ADQUATE FOR TIME BEING. TREATING HAS BEGUN ON HEAVIEST CONCENTRATIONS OF MED FLY USING MALATHION INSECTICIDE APPLIED WITH GROUND EQUIPMENT AND ALDRIN APPLIED TO THE SOIL. FALLEN FRUIT IS BEING COLLECTED AND BURNED. MINAG WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS REINFORCING EXTERIOR QUARANTINES ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FRONTIER WITH GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS. INTERIOR QUARANTINES

AWAITING A MORE ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBLEM. IN SOME INFESTATION SITES CATCHES OF 225 OR MORE FLIES PER TRAP PER DAY HAVE BEEN RECORDED WHICH IS THE MAXIMUM HOLDING CAPACITY OF TRAP.

2. APHIS MEDFLY SURVEY TEAM HAS ARRIVED. THEY WILL COLLECT SPECIMENS FOR U.S. NATIONAL MUSEUM CONFIRMATION. TEAM WILL CHANGE TRAVEL PLANS IN ORDER TO FULLY ASSESS THIS INFESTATION AND ITS IMPACT ON U.S. INTERESTS. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OIRSA DR. CARLOS MEYER HAS REQUESTED APHIS TEAM TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE APRIL 8 EVENING AND MAKE FIELD TRIP WITH PRESIDENT APRIL 9 TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN PLANNING ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY MINAG AND OIRSA. TEAM IN CONTACT WITH DON FIESTER, REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ROCAP, AID WHO IS PRESENTLY IN SAN SALVADOR.
CAMPBELL

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